



Regiment honors Signal Corps service during symposium

by Lisa Alley

The Signal Corps inducted two Medal of Honor winners and a U.S. senator as distinguished members of the Regiment, appointed its new honorary colonel and inducted a lieutenant general as an honorary member of the Regiment during 1997's Signal symposium.

Distinguished members

Max Cleland, U.S. senator from Georgia, was guest speaker at the Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Association President's Dinner Dec. 3, 1997, and was inducted as a distinguished member during a brief ceremony there. Cleland served as a Signal Corps officer during Vietnam, where he was severely wounded in a grenade explosion. MG Michael Ackerman — while introducing Cleland as guest

speaker — noted hearing about the grenade explosion on the radio, as the current Chief of Signal and Cleland served in the same unit during the Khe Sanh assault.

Cleland was an aide to then-BG Tom Rienzi when he volunteered for duty with 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. First assigned to 1st Cavalry's Signal battalion, Cleland then volunteered as communications officer for 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, which had been chosen for Operation Pegasus — the relief of Khe Sanh — in April 1968. Cleland was on a mountaintop with his Signal team to set up a radio relay when he lost his legs and right arm to a grenade explosion. For Khe Sanh he received the Bronze and Silver Stars.

In a separate ceremony Dec. 3 in the Regimental Hall, PVT Morgan Lane and MG Charles Kilbourne were inducted as distinguished members. Lane and Kilbourne are two of five Signal Corps Medal of Honor winners. Lane received his Medal of Honor in the Civil War, and Kilbourne his in the Philippine Insurrection.

Lane and two officers pursued seven crewmembers of a Confederate gunboat April 4, 1865, and Lane captured the gunboat's flag from one of those crewmembers. The War Department considered Lane as having captured the enemy warship by his possession of its flag, so for this act Lane received the Medal of Honor.

Kilbourne, then a Signal Corps lieutenant, received his Medal of Honor for climbing a telegraph pole with bullets flying all around him Feb. 5, 1899, and repairing a broken telegraph wire at Paco Bridge, restoring communication to the



Figure 20. MG Charles Kilbourne as superintendent of Virginia Military Institute, about 1938.

front. Kilbourne has been the only Signal officer to win the Medal of Honor while performing a combat communications mission. The Signal officer basic course's leadership award is named for him.

Honorary colonel

The Chief of Signal appointed retired LTG Bruce Harris as honorary colonel of the Regiment in the Regimental Hall ceremony. Harris replaced retired LTG Robert Donahue, who served several years as the Regiment's honorary colonel.

Harris is a former Chief of Signal and commanding general of the Signal Center and School, Fort Gordon, Ga., as well as former director of information systems for command, control, communications and computers; deputy commanding general of the Army's Information Systems Command; U.S. Army



Figure 19. MG Michael Ackerman, standing, inducts Sen. Max Cleland as a distinguished member of the Signal Corps (Regiment).

Communications Systems Agency commander; assistant division commander of 9th Infantry Division; and deputy assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs.

He pioneered the application of tactical automated command-and-



Figure 21. MG Michael Ackerman, left, appoints retired LTG Bruce Harris as the Regiment's new honorary colonel.

control systems and was a principal player in the merging of communications, automation, printing and publishing, imaging and records management into a single functional area within the Army.

Harris was inducted as a distinguished member of the Regiment in 1995.

Service as honorary colonel is normally for three years.

Honorary member

Ackerman also inducted LTG William Campbell — director of information systems for command, control, communications and computers — as an honorary member of the Regiment. Campbell began his military career as an infantryman, but since then has held a variety of positions within several branches and agencies, including military intelligence.

Just prior to assignment as DISC4, Campbell served as the program executive officer for



Figure 22. MG Michael Ackerman inducts LTG William Campbell, right, as an honorary member of the Signal Corps (Regiment).

command-and-control systems. As noted at his induction ceremony, "his decisions will continue to influence the direction of the Signal Corps."

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